

VAGABOND

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Hobo Advice Trainhopping 101: Don't Be An Oogle!

(self.vagabond)

submitted 2 months ago * by [huckstah](#) **Trainhopper / Hitchhiker**

Today's oogle comes in a few different types: Gutterpunks, Crusties, Dirty Kids, and Greenhorns. If you are unsure what I just said, you may want to [back-up and read this first](#).

Now, simply being a gutterpunk or a greenhorn doesn't necessarily make you an oogle. It's primarily stupidity, disrespect, and utter ignorance that will define whether you become an Oogle or a Rider.

Let's go over a few things that you can do to AVOID becoming an Oogle:

1) Clean Up Your Shit:

In past decades, you could usually find a hobo camp by seeing the campfire at night, and hear the echo's of singing and laughing. They were discreet hideouts that only other hobo's

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An online community created by vagabonds, for vagabonds:

knew about.

However, today it's much easier to find our hidden camps, thanks to Oogles.

Basically all you have to do is follow the trail of litter consisting of cheap vodka bottles, malt liquor cans, drug needles, discarded clothing, scattered beer boxes, food wrappers, piles of human shit, and the sounds of fighting and violence.

This is because Oogles have no respect for themselves, and therefore have no respect for the environment, the surrounding community, or other travelers.

Thanks to Oogles blowing up our scene with their trash, drugs, and violence, most cops and railroad bulls are now fully aware of where our camps are. These camps are now even part of their weekly patrol, and they constantly check them to harass travelers for warrant searches, drug use, etc.

As of the past decade, 75% of the time I find a hobo camp, I totally avoid the hell-hole and keep moving. I'd rather walk around the drama and the trash, and camp a few hundred yards away where it's safer.

Also, don't litter around town either. It gives all hobo's and vagabond's a bad reputation, and the town will become extremely unfriendly towards future travelers. Gather your shit, put it in a bag, and find a trash can on your way back to camp, and vice versa.

2) Stay Low and Out of the Yard:

Trainhopping is getting harder and harder because of oogles

Vagabonds, Hobos, Hitchhikers, Trainhoppers, Squatters, Rubbertramps, Backpackers, and more.

Feel free to share stories and pictures about your adventures on the road, or share advice and tips with greenhorns and lurkers!

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walking into trainyards and getting busted, or even worse, getting injured or killed.

One of the golden rules of trainhopping is to stay OUT OF THE YARD during the daytime.

Once one hobo gets seen, the yard gets "hot", which means police and security are going to be putting on heavier patrols looking for other potential trainhoppers. Colton, Roseville, Barstow, and Muskogee train yards are excellent examples of this happening too much in the past.

If it's a tough catch-out spot and you MUST enter the yard to hop, wait until late at night, after 8pm at the earliest. That's usually when the bull is being lazy, and most of the other yard workers have went home.

Also, at night time, there's less chance you'll be spotted by cameras, and security.

When you do go into the yard, be NINJA, and be quick! Try to use the shadows as much as possible, and have your target train spotted before you go into the yard. Make a direct dash to your target, get on your car, and STAY LOW.

Keep your eyes open for workers checking the cars and bulls patrolling the train. If you see headlights coming, get your ass down and stay low until you are clear.

Also, once you get on your car, never let your guard down. Constantly check both ways for headlights coming down the side of the tracks. Sometimes these headlights might belong to a worker, but most of the time these headlights are the security bull

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coming to find you because someone called you in.

3) Treat Everyone with Respect:

Just because you are now a hobo/vagabond that has escaped modern conformity, it does not mean you should adopt a condescending attitude and treat society with an asshole attitude.

So often, I'll see a group of oogles sitting on the sidewalk and constantly harassing everyone that walks by. Making fun of yuppies, picking on hippies, sexually harassing women, making fun of local employees, starting fights with other pedestrians, etc.

If you're going to poke fun at modern society and all the yuppies, then fine, do it in your own head. Don't go sit in the middle of downtown thinking it's cool to lash out your shitty angst-filled attitude on everyone else. Grow the fuck up, and keep the negativity to yourself.

In short, respect other types of travelers, and respect the community you are traveling through.

4) Keep the Drinking/Drugs At Camp:

I personally drink and smoke tons of marijuana. In fact, 90% of vagabonds and hobo's usually partake in fine spirits and good smoke. However, like anything else in life, there is a responsible place and time to do things, and certain times or places where it is simply STUPID to do them.

In nearly every city you travel to, you can find a group of oogles sitting on the sidewalks downtown, passing back and forth bottles of cheap liquor. Next you'll see the weed pipe come out. Even worse, I've seen oogles share meth pipes in the middle of a

sidewalk.

Just because you are outside of the normal social realms does not mean you can just sit down on a sidewalk and get intoxicated in public. It looks like shit, and it usually only leads to trouble. 99% of oogle fights start because oogles can't handle their liquor or drugs, and they suddenly get violent towards their own friends and/or innocent pedestrians. Next thing you know, here comes the cops, and now every traveler for the next week will have their damn name ran for warrants.

And also, I've seen so many hippie backpacking oogles sit down and just start blazing fat joints, in the middle of downtown on a busy sidewalk. Just because marijuana is becoming legal doesn't mean that you should just blow your smoke around people trying to go about their usual day. Some people are actually allergic to marijuana, some people simply hate the smell. Some people don't want their 4 year old exposed to do it. Just be responsible and consider other people.

CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE! Buy your beer, acquire your ganja, and take it BACK to camp! If you simply can't wait, atleast try to find an alley way and duck behind a dumpster or something. Don't sit on downtown strip and just whip out bottles of whiskey and fatass spliffs.


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[-] **pizzaboy420** 12 points 2 months ago

 Huck, I live in Portland Oregon and wish this shit was posted under every fucking bridge and hop out.
permalink


 [-] **jr98664** 8 points 1 month ago
As a fellow Portlander, I could not agree more. Why can't all of our street folk be as interesting and respectable as [/u/Huckstah](#)?
permalink parent


 [-] **tackshooter** 19 points 2 months ago
God I wish I was not in college. I have way too strong of a wander lust to sit here in college and do regular life. When I am done with this degree I think I will take a year to just go and do things like this. I wish I had done more of this stuff when I was a pretty much homeless teenager... Being tied down and shit sucks.
permalink

 [-] **autotom** 17 points 1 month ago
The ropes that tie you down are in your mind.
permalink parent

 [-] **Ask_if_Im_Socialist** 2 points 1 month ago
Same here, brother.
permalink parent

 [-] **Texasantifa** 5 points 2 months ago
lol
permalink parent

 [-] **joelmooner** 8 points 2 months ago
So if you hop trains and things like that, how do you charge your phone and get internet to post thing?
permalink

 [-] **huckstah** **Trainhopper / Hitchhiker** **S** 20 points 2 months ago
Smartphones, wifi hotspots, public libraries, etc. Alot of hobos and vagabonds are digitally inclined.
permalink parent

 [-] **joelmooner** 9 points 2 months ago



I understand now, im curious about being a vagabond but i dont think i would actually do it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)



[-] **huckstah** **Trainhopper / Hitchhiker** **S** 15 points 2 months ago

To each their own, brother :)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)



[-] **joelmoonner** 9 points 2 months ago

It is still a cool life though. I give you props for being able to do it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)



[-] **tehbanz** 1 point 1 month ago

Whatever the hell you wanna do, you're free!

[permalink](#) [parent](#)



[-] **TheTrooper101** 1 point 1 month ago

Probably a really stupid question: but where would you even charge your smartphone?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)



[-] **BrightStarRainbow** 3 points 1 month ago

Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, McDonald's, just to name a few places I know of with outlets for this reason.

There are tons of places that have outlets installed for the public.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)



[-] **_forgotmynameagain_** **Backpacker** 2 points 1 month ago

Buy your beer, acquire your ganja, and take it BACK to camp!

As I was in UK I drank beer and cider on the streets (downtown) almost every day. (It's not illegal there, but also not encouraged. If police would tell you to stop and hand over all your alcohol (open and still closed), you have to do, unless you want to risk a quite expensive fine).

I just tried to keep a low profile, putting the can behind my backpack when I was not drinking from it. And of course I didn't get dead drunk ... Just a few cans over the day ...

[permalink](#)



[-] **pineapplesofdoom** 1 point 1 month ago



Someone needs to etch these rules in the steps where the canal meets Hollywood cemetery in RVA. Fucking ruining it for the rest of us.

[permalink](#)



[-] **4thRedditAcct** 1 point 2 months ago

Thanks for making these helpful posts. I think a life on the tracks would be much more worthwhile than the traditional lifestyle most places in the US are offering...Adventure everyday..no cookiecutter lifestyle plans.

I'm happy to ponder these thoughts...I only wish I had the backbone to throw them into the mix...

[permalink](#)

[+] **Taketotherails** *comment score below threshold (2 children)*

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